

Redmond
Rodriguez
Sabo
Sessions
Stabenow

Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Taylor (MS)
Wamp

Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Weller
Wicker

NOT VOTING—17

Andrews
Cannon
Cooksey
Deal
Deutsch
Ford

Istook
Largent
Luther
McHugh
Morella
Oxley

Pelosi
Schiff
Slaughter
Snowbarger
Thompson

□ 1307

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber for two votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to approve the Journal and "yea" on H.R. 956, of which I am cosponsor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina) at 6 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House for the purpose of making an announcement regarding the schedule for our Members.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of apology that I inform the Members at this time that we will be unable to do any further work this evening on the legislative business before the House that so many of our Members have been so anxious about and that all had had such high hopes that we might be able to work further on tonight.

Circumstances between ourselves and the other body have made it impossible for us to do that work, in particular to further work on the budget or the supplemental appropriations bill. That work cannot be concluded tonight. Indeed, it will not be work we can resume again until after the recess period.

I would like to inform the Members that I do not anticipate any further votes this evening, any further work before the body, and that Members should be advised that they are free to return to their districts for the district work period.

Again, I would like to apologize to the Members, many of whom suffered some terrible inconvenience, and some

of whom have suffered some bitter disappointment about this announcement, and I can only wish them Godspeed on their journey to their districts and for the best, most productive, and happy work period possible.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the time and attention that the majority leader has spent looking at the consequences of the natural disasters experienced in our region, the people of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks and Devils Lake, ND. The gentleman's statement represents a very great disappointment to me and to those I represent.

I think there was a reasonable expectation that Congress would respond to this disaster and do so in a timely manner. The outside dimension of that timely response, I think, was before we certainly left for the Memorial Day recess, and now the gentleman indicates that that would not be the case.

Just when would the gentleman estimate that the relief so desperately needed would finally be accomplished?

Mr. ARMEY. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his inquiry. And, Mr. Speaker, responding to the gentleman from North Dakota may be one of the most difficult things I will do this year.

The gentleman from North Dakota has worked hard on this issue of this supplemental relief bill for his State. He has worked hard in the State, has expressed much concern to myself and other Members in the body. Indeed, I had the privilege of returning to the gentleman's State, my home State, at his invitation, to see for myself the devastation that has been inflicted in the area where, in fact, I attended graduate school. And I understand, I think, the degree to which the gentleman from North Dakota must be severely disappointed.

I can give the gentleman from North Dakota my assurance that the appropriators working on this bill are not walking away from their work. They are going to continue with their interest in this regard and will be bringing this up as soon as possible as soon as we return and the House reconvenes.

The gentleman from North Dakota, the respect with which he is held by the other Members of this body, will continue to be appreciated among those appropriators, and I can tell the gentleman that it is my great expectation and my full intent to complete this as quickly as possible upon our return.

I might also remind the gentleman from North Dakota that there are, in fact, continued relief efforts that will continue during this period of time for the State, and nobody from this body nor the administration, I believe, intends to leave the good people from the gentleman's home State in any kind of a state of disaster.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader. I too have to say that I am extremely disappointed that this institution has failed to act on something that is so important to so many people in this country.

I think it is a tragic, tragic and a huge mistake for us, actually, to leave without having resolved the issue of what we are going to do to complete the process of getting assistance to the people of the Dakotas, Minnesota, and other States around this country who have suffered enormous costs and personal heartbreak from these disasters that we have had in the past few months.

If I thought that I could prevail on a motion to block this House from adjourning, I would do that. In deference to many of my friends here who are anxious to get going, I will not do that. But I will say that I believe that we have made a huge mistake in putting politics and process in front of people.

I think that the real victims and the real losers in this are the people of our States, and I would hope that we will not delay any further when we return in getting this situation resolved.

Mr. ARMEY. Reclaiming my time, and if the gentlemen would please be patient, I wish to respond to the gentleman from South Dakota.

The gentleman from South Dakota has also worked hard on this bill, in fact, has introduced and won many innovations that will be very useful for the people in actually all three of the States that are so severely impacted by this.

I want to recognize again, as I did in the case of the gentleman from North Dakota, the good work and the dedication of the gentleman from South Dakota. Again, I would like to extend personally between himself and myself my apologies to the gentleman from South Dakota.

I understand that it would be within the gentleman's prerogative to call for a recorded vote. I understand how he must have every impulse of his being driving him in that direction. But I think the gentleman's assessment of the extent to which that would be consequentially in his favor is correct, and I, on behalf of so many of our colleagues that would be unnecessarily inconvenienced by his doing so, want to appreciate that as well.

I know the gentleman from North Dakota has these very, very same strong feelings, and I must say the gentleman from North Dakota has expressed them to me in what I would have to say was strong, congenial yet somewhat colorful language, and that is appropriate.

□ 1845

It is appropriate that my colleagues should all fight for their States and